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FBI Head Says Fraud Is Target

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The FBI is concentrating more on white collar crimes, such as investment and bank fraud, than on robberies that can be handled by police, the FBI director said Thursday at the Palm Beach Round Table.

William Webster told a crowd gathered in the Paramount Theater that in 1979 \$45 million was taken in robberies, but \$124 million was involved in fraud.

Citing a survey of Americans, Webster said "more people are concerned with \$10,000 being stolen by an elected official than if \$100,000 is stolen in an armed robbery."

Public distrust of institutions, Webster noted, tells him "we are going in the right direction."

Today the FBI is concentrating on the high impact crimes, the former U.S. Court of Appeals judge said, adding that the bureau is leaving more and more smaller crimes to local law enforcement agencies.

Webster gave two propositions that the bureau is based upon.

First, "No society can remain safe and free unless it has an ef-

fective system to enforce laws," Webster said.

Secondly, "No society can remain safe and free unless its agencies operate within the framework of the society's law," Webster added.

The historical tension between those two propositions is the most important problem Webster said he and the FBI deal with.

Webster said the FBI does not conduct investigations that violate citizens' First Amendment rights to free speech, religion or assembly.

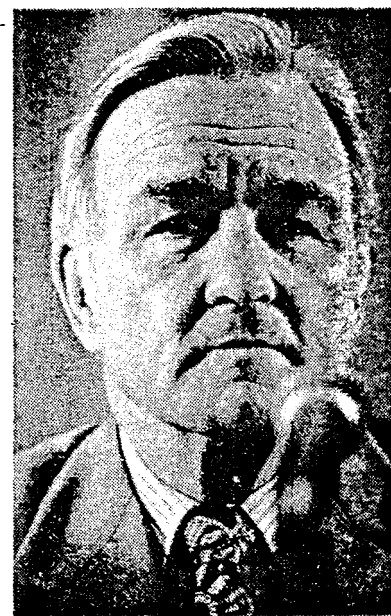
The bureau also only conducts investigations on people who have committed crimes or "are of the will to commit crime," Webster said.

Because many people believe the Freedom of Information Act hurt the FBI's rapport with its sources, Webster said the bureau relies more on undercover agents than ever before.

"It takes more time and staying power," Webster said of undercover work, but the results have been good.

For instance, Webster said the FBI received a cultural award from the recording industry for

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Stansfield Turner, CIA director

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